



Sheridan Region

Regional Wildlife Supervisor:

Joe Gilbert

Regional Fisheries Supervisor:

Paul Mavrakis

Office Managers:

Lori Roe
Kathy Boyles

Clerical Specialists:

Wendy Balkenbush
Stephanie Bomar

Game Wardens:

Dayton: Dustin Shorma
Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano
Buffalo: Jim Seeman
Kaycee: Grant Gerharter
N. Gillette: Vacant
S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch
Moorcroft: J.D. Davis
Investigator: Scott Adell
Damage Tech: Vacant

Public Information Specialist:

Bud Stewart

Wildlife Biologists :

Wildlife Management Coordinator:
Lynn Jahnke
Sheridan: Tim Thomas
Buffalo: Dan Thiele
Gillette: Erika Peckham
Terrestrial Habitat: Todd Caltrider

PLPW Program Coordinator:

Troy Tobiasson

Fish Biologists:

Bill Bradshaw
Andrew Nikirk
Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

Habitat and Access Coordinator:

Seth Roseberry

Aquatic Invasive Species:

Mike Locatelli

Story Fish Hatchery:

Superintendent: Steve Diekema
Senior Fish Culturist: Brad Hughes
Culturist: Jennifer Meineke

Sheridan Bird Farm:

Supervisor: Darrell Meineke
Biologist: Nate Brown
Technician: Kurt Heiser

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sheridan Region

April 2016 Newsletter

New AIS Specialist in Sheridan Region



Mike Locatelli became the new Sheridan Region Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist in March.

Mike Locatelli joined the Sheridan Region on March 1 to take the position of Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. Locatelli was born and raised in Wisconsin. After a couple years at the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Locatelli transferred to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. While in Tennessee, he enrolled in an exchange program and attended Washington State University and the University of Maine for one semester each and also worked as a whitewater raft guide during his five summers in the Smoky Mountains. In 2009, Locatelli graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Management. Since then, he has worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Technician and Conservation Biologist, for Louisiana State University and Clemson University on wildlife research projects, for The Nature Conservancy in Kentucky and in March 2015 started with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department as an AIS Specialist in Casper. In his free time, Locatelli can be found paddling rivers, hiking with his two mastiffs or being a diehard Green Bay Packers fan.



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Hunting Season Setting Meetings

During March wildlife managers in the Sheridan Region held five open houses or public meetings to present the proposed 2016 hunting seasons. Initial open houses/public meetings were held in Gillette, Sheridan, Buffalo and Kaycee. A final public meeting to address the comments received during the initial events was held in Sheridan on March 21. The finalized proposed seasons were then forwarded to the Wildlife Division Administration in the Cheyenne G&F office for one more round of approval before they are submitted to the G&F Commission for final approval and consideration at the April 21 Commission meeting.

The Sheridan Open House drew about 50 people, the largest crowd of any of the events in the Sheridan G&F Region. The larger crowd was due to some significant changes that were being proposed to the hunting season structure for deer and elk in some hunt areas to the west of Sheridan.



The Sheridan Public Season Setting open house drew over 50 people (photo at left). Sheridan Game Warden Bruce Scigliano (far table on left side, back to us), Dayton Game Warden Dustin Shorma (kneeling at right end of far table on left) and Sheridan Wildlife Biologist Tim Thomas (on far end of table on right) discuss issues with some of the hunters that attended the meeting.

The Buffalo Public Season Setting open house (photo on right) was attended by 13 people. Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman (green jacket on right side of near table), Buffalo Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele (red shirt on right side near table) and Lynn Jahnke (red shirt at far table) visit with some of the hunters that attended the Buffalo Open House.



The Kaycee Public Season Setting meeting attracted five hunters/landowners. Buffalo Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele (third from left), Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Todd Caltrider (fourth from left), Kaycee Game Warden Grant Gerharter (standing in back) and Sheridan Wildlife Supervisor Joe Gilbert (on right in back) listen as Kaycee area landowner Wayne Graves discusses protein content in livestock and wildlife forage.



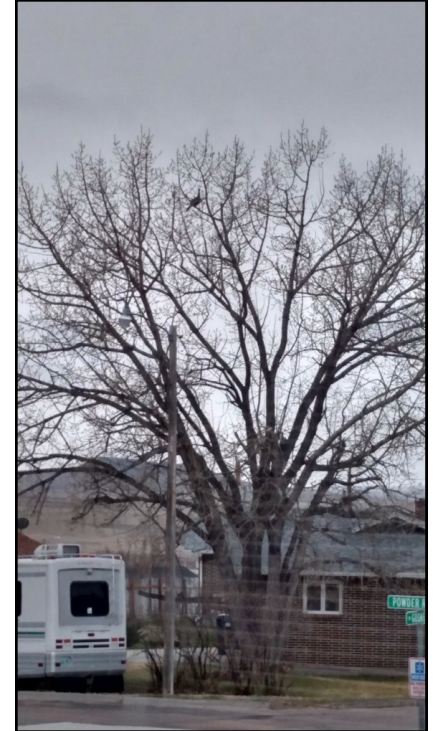
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Just Passing Through



Moorcroft Game Warden John Davis reported that toward the end of March nine turkeys passed through Moorcroft. They appeared in town after a very high wind. After roosting in trees in Moorcroft for one night the turkeys moved on. While turkeys are common in the Black Hills east and north of Moorcroft they are not regularly observed within the town.



The two photos show the turkeys that passed through Moorcroft at the end of March.

Game & Fish has booth at Wyoming Sportsman's Group Banquet



Game & Fish Commissioner Keith Culver (far left) discusses issues with Sheridan Fish Management Supervisor Paul Mavrakis (blue shirt) as Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Todd Caltrider looks on. Gillette Wildlife Biologist Erika Peckham (behind table on left) and South Gillette Game Warden Dustin Kirsch (behind table on right) help some children identify the furs on the table.

The Wyoming Sportsman's Group (WSG) held their fund raising banquet at the Camplex in Gillette in early March. In the short time the WSG has been in existence they have contributed significantly to several projects Game and Fish has been involved with. WSG had a trap/transport trailer built and donated it to Game and Fish for use in the Gillette area. In addition, WAG has contributed funds to finish a wheelchair accessible fishing pier in Newcastle, treat weeds after a fire near Dayton and help with a wildlife habitat improvement project in Campbell County. Game and Fish set up a booth displaying photos of the various projects WSG has been involved with and had the trap/transport trailer at the banquet.



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Happenings at the Story Fish Hatchery



Story Fish Hatchery Fish Culturist Jennifer Meineke and Hatchery Superintendent Steve Diekema collect milt from an Eagle Lake rainbow trout for a milt storage study the hatchery will be conducting.

With the mild weather in March, over 350 people visited the Story Hatchery.

The Eagle Lake rainbow trout spawning operation began in March and 250,000 eggs were collected.

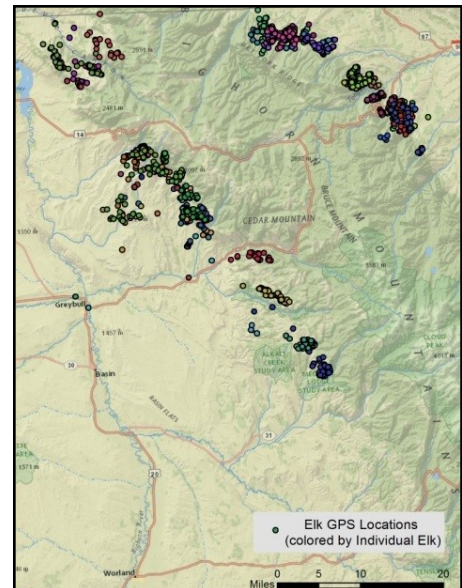
The Wigwam Rearing Station near Tensleep shipped 77,000 Bear River cutthroat trout green eggs to the Story hatchery for incubation to the "eyed egg" stage. Once the eggs reach that stage they will be shipped to other G&F fish hatcheries for hatching and rearing of the fingerling cutthroats.

Story Hatchery started the pre-collection of milt for a study to determine the success of storing of milt using the Storfish product. Being able to store fish milt would more easily allow for the infusion of wild genes into captive brood stocks when milt availability may be decreased toward the end of a spawning run.

Collared Elk Doing Well



Trail cam photo of cow elk wearing one of the collars one month after it was placed on the elk.



Locations of cow elk collared on the east and west side of the Bighorn Mountains in mid-February.

In mid-February GPS collars were placed on cow elk on the east and west side of the Bighorn Mountains as part of a brucellosis research project to better understand the movement and distribution of elk in the northern Bighorns. Several trail cam photos have shown the collared cows to be doing well while wearing the tracking collars.